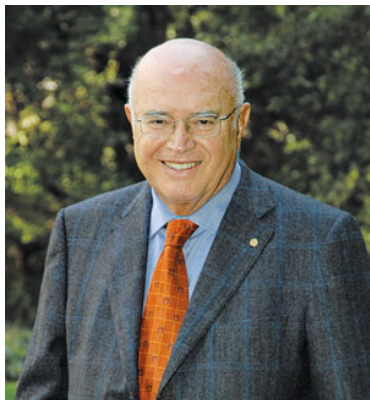


## Somorjai Wins Priestley Medal of the American Chemical Society



MSD investigator Gabor Somorjai was awarded the 2008 Priestley Medal, the highest honor of the American Chemical Society (ACS) for “his pioneering role in and ongoing contributions to surface chemistry, a field of far-reaching and still-growing scientific and technological significance.”

The ACS Priestley Medal was established in 1923 as the society’s highest honor and it has been awarded annually since 1944. The medal is named for Joseph Priestley, who reported the discovery of

oxygen in 1774, and is given for a lifetime of accomplishments.

Somorjai has been a pioneer in the study of surfaces and surface phenomena, and through this had had a significant impact on various other disciplines, including physical chemistry, heterogeneous catalysis, materials science and nanoscience. In a career spanning over 40 years, he has studied structure, bonding, and reactivity on the molecular level of solid surfaces. His use and development of novel techniques, such as low-energy electron diffraction surface crystallography and high-pressure tunneling microscopy, has led to an array of findings that have driven the development of surface science. Somorjai is the author of three textbooks and more than 900 scientific papers in the realms of surface chemistry and catalysis. His research has generated thousands of worldwide publications over the past 40 years, and the study of surface phenomena and heterogeneous catalysis has become one of the most active fields in solid state physical chemistry.



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